

STORMCASTER: A NEW TOOL THAT ALLOWS COMMUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE 100 YEAR STORM

Stephen Bourne, Atkins

Climate change has wrought measurable and substantive impact on our day to day lives. Sea levels rise. Storms become more frequent. Droughts are longer and more pervasive. A key metric for communities across the country is the change in the 100 year storm, the storm that has 1% chance of occurring. Despite the fame of the term, and the acceptance of climate change as real, the specific change in the size of the storm in any given community ranges from uncertain to unknown. StormCaster is a new web-based tool developed to allow the public to assess how the 100 year storm will change over the 20th century in their community. Merging both historical climate understanding and future projections from General circulation models, it creates an uncertainty aware projection of changes in the storm, which can be used to understand potential flood impacts, changes to ecosystem water and chemistry balance, and potential changes in water supply.